



General Assembly

February Session, 2002

Raised Bill No. 54

LCO No. 217

Referred to Committee on Judiciary

Introduced by:
(JUD)

AN ACT ESTABLISHING AN ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE TASK FORCE.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in General Assembly convened:

1 Section 1. (*Effective from passage*) (a) There is established an
2 environmental justice task force. The task force shall (1) identify and
3 examine existing state policies, practices or procedures that may
4 impede the achievement of environmental justice, and (2) develop and
5 recommend proposed legislation or administrative regulations, or
6 both, for programs, policies or procedures that promote the equal, fair
7 and meaningful participation of state residents with respect to
8 environmental justice issues in their communities, regardless of race,
9 culture or income level. As used in this section, "environmental justice"
10 means the equal protection of the laws of this state or the United States
11 to ensure that no segment of the state's population bears a
12 disproportionate burden of environmental risk by virtue of residence,
13 place of education, place of employment or place of recreation, and
14 that no segment of the state's population is denied equal access to the
15 state's natural resources.

16 (b) The task force shall consist of the following members:

17 (1) Two appointed by the speaker of the House of Representatives,
18 one of whom shall be a representative of the Connecticut Association
19 of Directors of Health and one of whom shall be a member of the
20 public representing a community affected by environmental justice
21 issues;

22 (2) Two appointed by the president pro tempore of the Senate, one
23 of whom shall be a representative of the Connecticut Environmental
24 Health Association and one of whom shall be a member of the public
25 representing a community affected by environmental justice issues;

26 (3) One appointed by the majority leader of the House of
27 Representatives, who shall be a representative of the Connecticut
28 Coalition for Environmental Justice;

29 (4) One appointed by the majority leader of the Senate, who shall be
30 a representative of the Hartford Environmental Justice Network;

31 (5) One appointed by the minority leader of the House of
32 Representatives, who shall be a representative of the Interreligious
33 Eco-Justice Network Program;

34 (6) One appointed by the minority leader of the Senate, who shall be
35 a representative of the Connecticut Conference of Municipalities;

36 (7) The executive director of the Commission on Human Rights and
37 Opportunities;

38 (8) The Commissioner of Environmental Protection, or the
39 commissioner's designee;

40 (9) The chairman of the Connecticut Siting Council, or the
41 chairman's designee;

42 (10) The Commissioner of Public Health, or the commissioner's
43 designee;

44 (11) The Commissioner of Children and Families, or the

45 commissioner's designee;

46 (12) The Commissioner of Education, or the commissioner's
47 designee;

48 (13) The chairperson of the African-American Affairs Commission,
49 or the chairperson's designee;

50 (14) The chairperson of the Latino and Puerto Rican Affairs
51 Commission, or the chairperson's designee; and

52 (15) The chairperson of the Advisory Commission on Multicultural
53 Health, or the chairperson's designee.

54 (c) All appointments to the task force shall be made no later than
55 thirty days after the effective date of this section. Any vacancy shall be
56 filled by the appointing authority.

57 (d) The executive director of the Commission on Human Rights and
58 Opportunities shall serve as the chairperson of the task force. The
59 chairperson shall schedule the first meeting of the task force, which
60 shall be held no later than sixty days after the effective date of this
61 section.

62 (e) The administrative staff of the joint standing committee of the
63 General Assembly having cognizance of matters relating to judiciary
64 shall serve as administrative staff of the task force.

65 (f) Not later than January 1, 2003, the task force shall submit a report
66 on its findings and recommendations to the joint standing committee
67 of the General Assembly having cognizance of matters relating to
68 judiciary, in accordance with the provisions of section 11-4a of the
69 general statutes. The task force shall terminate on the date that it
70 submits such report or January 1, 2003, whichever is earlier.

This act shall take effect as follows:	
Section 1	<i>from passage</i>

Statement of Purpose:

To establish an environmental justice task force to identify and examine existing state policies and procedures that may impede the achievement of environmental justice.

[Proposed deletions are enclosed in brackets. Proposed additions are indicated by underline, except that when the entire text of a bill or resolution or a section of a bill or resolution is new, it is not underlined.]